



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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55 Years Later, a Special Honor for Korean War Veterans

ROK General to Present Medallions and Certificates

(FRANKFORT, KY July 15, 2008) For almost 10 years, Major General (Ret.) Choi Sueng-Woo has been delivering his personal thanks and gratitude to American veterans of the Korean War.

“Since I came to understand a historical significance of the U.S. commitment to Korea and its democratic growth,” General Choi says, “it has become my earnest desire to express my sincere thanks to all those great American soldiers, men and women, who bravely took part in the Korean War to help us defend peace and freedom from the ruthless blitz-krieg invasion of North Korean communists who were supported by USSR and China.”

The 30-year military veteran who was a child during the Korean War but fought with American soldiers in VietNam first expressed his appreciation to veterans in Tennessee in 1999. In return, Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe proclaimed July 11 of that year “General Choi Seung Woo Day.”

“I was inspired and I made up my mind to honor the veterans of the Korean War in some way,” General Choi says. “I wished to commemorate in some substantial ways the noble sacrifices as were gallantly displayed by Korean War veterans.”

Choi, who is now the Executive of Yesan County in Choongnam Province, Republic of Korea, decided to award special medals. He designed and had struck heavy metal medallions with neck ribbons and certificates to present to American veterans of the Korean War.

Since 2000, he has presented the medallions and certificates to more than 5,000 veterans across the country, including several hundred in Kentucky in 2003, the 50th anniversary of the end of fighting in Korea.

On Thursday, July 24, General Choi will return to Kentucky to present medallions and certificates to Kentucky's surviving veterans of the Korean War.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will host the ceremony to recognize and honor our Korean War veterans at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

Individuals who served in the military between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (inclusive) may pre-register for the ceremony by completing [this form](#) [PDF 468 KB] and faxing it along with a copy of their DD214 to (502) 696-5289 or mailing it to: KDVA, Attention: Pamela Cypert, 1111B Louisville Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601. Cutoff date for pre-registration is Friday, July 18th.

Registration on the day of the ceremony will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the ceremony itself will begin at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The Korean-American community is welcome and encouraged to attend to meet MG Choi and help us recognize these great American heroes.

The ceremony will be held in room B 105 in the South Wing of the Exposition Center in Louisville. There will be a charge for parking of \$6.00 per vehicle.

Please [Pre-Register Today](#) [PDF 468 KB]

Or call Pamela Cypert at 800-572-6245

Check the Korean War Veterans Honor Ceremony web page <http://veterans.ky.gov/choimedallion.htm> for updates. The web page also has a link to a printable poster publicizing the event.